Dear Research Group,

I just learned about the group and am very interested to weigh in on the 1115 Medicaid Waiver. Medical Respite is extremely important to the success of the 1115 Waiver.

http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Sept2011.pdf

Medical Respite Care is acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets, but who are not ill enough to be in a hospital. Medical respite programs allow homeless individuals the opportunity to rest in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services. It is offered in a variety of settings including freestanding facilities, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and transitional housing.

Medical respite programs fill a gap in the continuum of care for people who are experiencing homelessness. Generally, people are discharged from a hospital within a day or two of being treated, with instructions to rest, eat well, and complete a course of medication or other treatment until fully recuperated. Unless hospitals choose to extend inpatient stays (which has cost implications), people who are without housing must attempt to follow instructions while living on the street.

Recuperation on the street is nearly impossible. Local laws that criminalize homelessness prevent people from sitting or lying down in public. Unsanitary conditions cause open wounds to become infected, clean bandages quickly become filthy, washing facilities are generally unavailable, medication requiring refrigeration is compromised, and prescribed diets are not available.

Please put me on your email list for the next go around.

Thanks

Jennifer

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